

REMARKS:

Claims 31-40 are pending in the application. Of note, no claim amendments are being made at this time.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection (made in the August 3, 2006 Final Office Action) of claims 31-40 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,109,747.

It is respectfully submitted that applicant does not necessarily concur with the Examiner in the Examiner's analysis of claims 31-40 of the present application and claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,109,747.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, a Terminal Disclaimer directed to U.S. Patent No. 6,109,747 is submitted herewith.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection (made in the August 3, 2006 Final Office Action) of claims 31-40 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,109,747 has been overcome.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the sole remaining rejection raised by the Examiner in the August 3, 2006 Final Office Action has been overcome and that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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